STEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 220
STEWARD, ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting

June 17th, 2026 posted for participation.

Minutes taken by Matt Hayes.

The school board meeting of June 17th, 2026 was called to order by President Chele Wells.

On roll call at 6:00 pm, the following members were present:

Board members present: Chele Wells, Jen Kraemer, Vicki Maertz, Bethany Drendel, Matt Macklin, Jennie O'Rorke, and Principal Michelle Esposito

Board members late:

Board members absent: Tom Brown

Visitors:

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1. Approval of/Additions to the Agenda

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the agenda was accepted with the additions of Buildings and Grounds Renovations and Repair.

2. Approval /Correction of Minutes of the May 20th, 2026 meeting

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the minutes of May 20th, 2026 meeting were accepted as presented.

3. Approval of Financial Reports and Bills

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the bills and financial reports were accepted as presented.

4. Good News Communication and Report from Principal Esposito.
    a. See file.
5. Board Communication for the Good of Steward District 220.
    a. none.
6. Recognition and Comments from Employees and the Public
    b. New family with four kids moved into the district.

Old Business

7. Building and Grounds: Floor Scrubber, Gym Floor, Rochelle Vault (septic).
    a. The old scrubber broke, and parts are not made for it anymore. A new one was purchased.
    b. The gym floor was refinished.
    c. The septic has backed up into the kitchen. Rochelle Vault will be out to inspect the system.
    d. Vicki Maertz will contact someone who works with septic systems, in case we need a second opinion.

8. Buildings and Grounds Renovations and Repairs
    a. The fire alarm panel is still having problems going off when it is not necessary.
    b. We will need four new modules ($16,000) to help with the communication problem.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved the replacement of four modules with new modules at a cost of $16,000 by Allegiant.

    c. Tim Bruns, of Bruns Construction, looked over the flat roof and suggested that some maintenance on the roof could help it last for another 10 years.
    d. He looked at the connection between the new building and the gym and suggested it needed to be re-caulked.
    e. A rough estimate would be around $15,000.
    f. We need to run it by our architect before moving forward.
    g. The new building needs new caulking. It was suggested that Nate Ramsey be contacted to look at it.

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved spending up to $30,000 to repair the roof after talking with our architect.

9. Calendar Update and approval for 2026-2027 calendar (school will be on election day, and the last day will change to May 20th)

On a motion by Vicki Maertz, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved the school calendar update for 2026-2027.

10. Salary: Teachers, Staff, and Bus Driver (hourly rate)
    a. It was discussed to raise the teacher salaries and the auxiliary staff salaries by 3%.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved to increase the base teacher salary by 3% for the 2026-2027 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved to increase the auxiliary staff's salary by 3% for the 2026-2027 school year.

    b. It was discussed to raise the bus driver's wait time hourly rate to $15 per hour.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call vote of all ayes, the Board approved increasing the bus driver's wait time to $15 per hour for the 2026-2027 school year.

New Business

11. 2026-2027 Budget (permission to get started on the FY27 Budget)

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board granted permission to begin the FY27 Budget.

12. Approval of Superintendent Contract
    a. To be discussed in Executive Session.

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16. Executive Session: To consider the appointment, employment, and compensation. Discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or individual student matters.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move into Executive Session at 7:10 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board approved to move out of Executive Session at 8:17 pm.

17. Action Resulting from Executive Session

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the retirement of Jeannette Rod, effective in June of 2027.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved the hiring of a permanent substitute teacher for a maternity leave in the Fall of the FY27 school year.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board accepted the Superintendent contract as of 8/1/2025, terminating no later than 6/30/2027.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a roll call of all ayes, the Board approved moving forward with a preschool and the schedule for the FY27 school year, with a maximum of 8 students.

18. The next meeting will be held on July 15th at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Bethany Drendel, seconded by Jen Kraemer, and with a unanimous voice vote, the Board adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Vicki Maertz, Board Secretary
Board of Education
July 15th, 2026

Approved by the Board of Education:

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Chele Wells, President
Board of Education